

Resolution 21-125 Testimony

MISC. COM. 343

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 9:40 PM
Subject: Public Safety Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Kevin Landers
Phone 8087777214
Email kvnplndrs@gmail.com
Meeting Date 06-01-2021
Council/PH Committee Public Safety
Agenda Item nomination of Larry Ignas to HPC
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Self
Organization Aloha Councilmembers

Written
Testimony

I'm writing to express my vehement opposition to the Mayor's nomination of Larry Ignas to the Honolulu police commission.

You'll likely be familiar with the following points from the community that is finally bringing community engagement to the issue of police oversight in a principled and organized manner:

The Honolulu Police Commission's stated commitment is "to continue working proactively with the department to address problems regarding police conduct and other issues." One of the Honolulu Police Commission's tasks is to "Receive, consider, and investigate charges brought by the public against the conduct of the department or any of its members and submits a written report of its findings to the Chief of Police." Commissioners who are overly empathetic to police officers may prioritize the officer's perspective, to the detriment of a fair and unbiased investigation. Further, this new Commissioner could very well play a pivotal role in the hiring of a new police chief. We want a police chief who is connected to our communities. As mentioned, Larry Ignas has no community activities listed in his application, so we remain concerned with his nomination. Mayor Blangiardi has made it clear that he wants someone on the commission who has empathy for law enforcement officers. Again, we ask, "Who will have empathy for us?" The Honolulu Police Commission is about a fair and effective system that accounts for the public perspective. Prioritizing the police perspective means that often the public perspective is ignored or at least glossed over.

The existing Honolulu Police Commission is skewed towards HPD. We do not need another commissioner to further tip the scale. Honolulu needs a commissioner who will actually prioritize the community's interests. The following characteristics should be the bare minimum in all commissioners: Will ensure accountability and transparency from the Honolulu Police Department, Is representative of the communities overly represented in the criminal legal system and/or has worked directly with those who are disproportionately

impacted by police and policing, and Acknowledges that there are racial and wealth disparities in Honolulu's policing.

Mahalo,

Kevin Landers
808.777.7214

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 9:11 AM
Subject: Public Safety Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Sean Aronson
Phone 8086474044
Email seanaronson@gmail.com
Meeting Date 06-02-2021
Council/PH Committee Public Safety
Agenda Item HPC nominee
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Self
Organization

Written Testimony

I oppose the nominee and would like to see someone who represents the community and not the police. The police already have SHOPO to protect their interests, but who does the community have? We need someone willing to discuss reforms, especially in light of the 2 very high-profile shootings of unarmed people. Please deny this nominee so the Mayor gets the message that we deserve a nominee who will fight for the communities most affected by police violence.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2021 10:59 AM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Kristen Young
Phone 8089270741
Email kristenslyoung@gmail.com
Meeting Date 06-02-2021
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 21-125
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Self
Organization

I am a Honolulu resident and would like to express my concern regarding Mayor Blangiardi's nomination of Larry Ignas as the seventh member of the Honolulu Police Commission. Larry Ignas is the second former police officer the mayor has nominated (after Benjamin Mahi who withdrew his own nomination after community concerns) and I do not believe we need another person with ties to the police serving on the Commission.

Written
Testimony

I believe it is a great conflict of interest to have a former veteran of a police force serving on the Commission whose role is to "Receive, consider, and investigate charges brought by the public against the conduct of the department..." The Honolulu Police Commission should help to improve relations between the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and the community and hold HPD accountable, which benefits not only the community but ultimately HPD, as well.

Mayor Blangiardi has stated his desire for someone on the Commission with empathy for law enforcement officers. Currently the Honolulu Police Commission is unbalanced and biased towards HPD with a majority of commissioners who have big business/police/prosecutor backgrounds. In a time when there is valid mistrust in police officers and departments across the nation for an excess and misuse of power by law enforcement, including in Honolulu after police shot and killed Iremamber Sykap and Lindani Myeni in recent months, I want to know who (in places of power) will have empathy for the community, for us?

I would like to see someone on the Commission who represents the

communities that are most impacted by the criminal legal system or works with people who are negatively impacted by policing. The commissioner should be most interested in accountability and transparency from HPD. I do not believe Larry Ignas fits this description and I am also concerned that he was not even a 'good cop' while on duty after reading about an incident described in an old newspaper saying Ignas "used poor judgment".

Here are a few questions I hope you will ask Mr. Ignas during the hearing:

- 1) Will you encourage the public to file a complaint if they have one?
- 2) Will you seek opportunities to make positive changes within HPD rather than maintain the status quo?
- 3) Do you acknowledge and understand that racial disparities in policing is an important issue in Hawai'i that must be addressed?
- 4) How do you believe HPD can build bridges and trust between communities that are overrepresented in Hawai'i's criminal legal system?

I hope you will use your authority (and your hearts!) to reject the nomination of Larry Ignas to make way for a commissioner who will serve ALL of Honolulu's people and desire to increase trust of the Honolulu Police Department among the communities in which they serve. Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony
Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

Kylie Akiona

Mililani, HI 96789

(808)347-8672 | kylieakiona2@gmail.com

June 2, 2021

Aloha e Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Kia'āina, and Councilmembers,

My name is Kylie Akiona, a Kanaka Maoli Wahine born and raised on O'ahu. I am writing to you, in my individual capacity, in **OPPOSITION to Resolution 21-125** confirming the appointment of Larry Ignas as the next Honolulu Police Commissioner.

Despite our racial and ethnic diversity, the racism in Hawai'i is real, and it is dangerous, lethal, and traumatizing. Growing up on O'ahu as an indigenous person, I have witnessed and felt the effects of the disparities in policing and incarceration against people like me: Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Black people. Following the loss of Lindani Myeni and Iremamber Sykap just over a month ago, I feel and empathize with the devastations inflicted upon our community by the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and its officers who are sworn to protect and serve. Despite the "officer-involved" fatal shootings, the Myeni and Sykap families have yet to receive answers from those responsible for ripping their loved ones away from them, and HPD continues to remain silent. Following these tragic deaths, the position of a Honolulu Police Commissioner requires a thorough understanding of the devastating effects of blatant inequalities in policing in Hawai'i and represents the communities suffering losses inflicted by HPD.

The Honolulu Police Commission is one of the few bodies responsible for holding HPD accountable for police misconduct, and as such, cannot be tainted with conflicts of interest like Larry Ignas, or previous nominee Benjamin Mahi. Larry Ignas is a retired police officer, which immediately poses concerns about the reliability of the Honolulu Police Commission and his ability to perform the duties of a commissioner. Ignas' loyalty to HPD also poses a serious threat to the trust of the public in the Honolulu Police Commission. Larry Ignas is not representative of those overpoliced and directly impacted by policing and the criminal justice system in Honolulu, and is unable to completely empathize with these communities as needed.

I, like many others, have very little reason to believe that Larry Ignas will advocate for necessary changes that need to be made within HPD: police accountability, transparency, adequate training, nor establish public trust. When two members of our community die without answers or condolences, I have no reason to believe that there will not be more police killings. Despite Mayor Blangiardi's plead for a commissioner who can empathize with our police department, we need Honolulu Police Commissioners to empathize with the community first, especially those who now have to mourn the loss of their loved ones and continue to suffer the racial and economic inequalities exacerbated by HPD's policing. We cannot afford to keep losing our sons, husbands, nephews, cousins, friends, and valuable members of our community because HPD fails to protect the people it serves. We should not have to continue suffering injustices. We deserve to live without fear of the police taking our lives away, and a police commission that holds HPD accountable. Larry Ignas and his past/current relationship with HPD does not ensure our protection and safety, and should not be given the title of commissioner.

We all want to do what's best for Honolulu, and you have the power to do so. We shouldn't have to hear another news story about an "officer-involved" murder. The Sykap and Myeni families deserve their loved ones back, and they deserve answers. We need accountability, transparency, and a police force that actually protects the community it serves. I respectfully ask you, councilmembers, to **oppose the confirmation of Larry Ignas** to serve as the next Honolulu Police Commissioner. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Resolution 21-125. I am available for any questions or concerns regarding my testimony.

Ke aloha,

Kylie Akiona

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2021 4:25 PM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Carla Allison
Phone 8083961488
Email cbm@hawaii.rr.com
Meeting Date 06-02-2021
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 21-125: Nomination of Larry Ignas to the Honolulu Police Commission
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Organization Self

Written Testimony

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Kia'aina, and Council Members,
I am writing to voice my concern and objection to the Mayor's second attempt to place a former police officer (Larry Ignas) to fill the Police Commission's vacancy.

What the Commission needs most is a Commissioner who can bring the perspective and effective representation of our most marginalized communities, a perspective and expertise currently missing on the Commission.

Fortunately there are many nominee options in our community who can fill this role and bring vantage points resulting in a more-well rounded Commission. While I cannot speak for the current Commissioners I trust that they would welcome a person who can help bring connection and viewpoints from communities served by HPD but under-represented on the Commission.

Regarding Mr. Ignas, so much has changed around policing since he last served as an officer in 1989. While the Mayor has clearly stated his desire to have a Commissioner with policing experience, would we really be best served by a person whose policing experience is over 30 years old? And with his policing experience being out dated, do we need another Commissioner with more of a management background? From the resume Ignas submitted, there is nothing to indicate that he has worked directly with those in our community who are disproportionately impacted by policing.

Please tell the Mayor to try again. Please reject the Mayor's nominee, Larry Ignas, as the seventh member of the Honolulu Police Commission.

Thank you,
Carla Allison

Testimony
Attachment
Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 5:46 AM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Jessica Hernandez
Phone 7164813239
Email jessica.04.hernandez@gmail.com
Meeting Date 06-02-2021
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item 21-125
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Self
Organization

Aloha Councilmembers,

Written
Testimony

My name is Jessica Hernandez, and I am a District 5 Honolulu resident writing to you today to explain my concerns about the nomination of Larry Ignas to the Honolulu Police Commission (HPC). I have watched each HPC meeting since November 2020, and I have been severely disappointed in the lack of transparency from HPD, the failure of Commissioners to ask targeted questions that get real answers from HPD, and the lack of representation of the communities most impacted by police and policing. This is a significant issue when it comes to scrutinizing and really understanding the impact of HPD's actions on community members. HPC has a mission, as well as the ability, to bridge the gap between HPD and the community, but their current constitution prevents them from succeeding at that goal. Placing Mr. Ignas on the Commission would further debilitate the Commission's ability to, as their mission states, build "mutual respect between police officers and the public".

Mayor Blangiardi has stated more than once that he wants a former police officer on the Commission because of the empathy (for law enforcement) they'd bring to the board, but, in my opinion, the Commission already brings plenty of empathy and support for HPD. Anyone who reviews the Commissioners' backgrounds and watches HPC meetings concludes the same. Commissioners' backgrounds and stances aside, the actual HPC meeting structure is skewed heavily in favor of HPD. For example, community members are only given 30 minutes to speak in the form of public testimony, and even if telephonic testimony lasts five minutes, the Commissioners do not

read the written testimony they receive; which means the community may only be represented for five minutes out of a 1-2 hour meeting. Meanwhile, HPD is given unlimited space to present information, share propaganda that puts them in the best light, and to essentially testify on legislation without community input.

We don't need a Commissioner who is empathetic of police—the Commissioners are already meeting that bar. We need someone who can bring a community voice to the table. We need someone who understands what it actually means to have to call 911 when your mentally ill sibling is in crisis because that's the only resource you have, but you're scared about how officers will treat them. We need someone who would've told Chief Ballard she was being racist when she said that Micronesians don't understand our culture nor our laws. We need someone who would've acknowledged that Iremamber Sykap and Lindani Myeni's deaths were tragic—someone who would've recognized that our community needed to hear our leaders speak up for people's humanity as opposed to staying silent in the face of so much pain, grief, and violence. We need someone who won't dismiss HPD's responsibility to address the fact that their use of force and arrests are racially and ethnically disproportionate.

Councilmembers, as you consider Mr. Ignas's appointment to the Honolulu Police Commission and he proceeds through the confirmation process, I hope that you will consider asking him the following questions in an open forum:

- What is Mr. Ignas's thoughts on the "blue wall of silence"? What did he do when he was an officer to breakdown that wall?
- If Mr. Ignas is confirmed, how will he work to remove the public's perception of his bias given his background?
- What kind of reforms does Mr. Ignas believe that the Honolulu Police Department needs to help address justice system reform?
- If confirmed, what does Mr. Ignas believe his role will be to address the erosion of trust the public has after the recent police shootings, and the Kealoha conspiracy and abuse of power?
- What does Mr. Ignas believe that the Honolulu Police Department should be doing to build bridges and trust between communities that are over represented in Hawaii's criminal legal system?
- Besides the investigations function, what does Mr. Ignas think is the next important function of the Police Commission?
- If confirmed, how will Mr. Ignas make himself available to the general public that may have concerns about the Police Commission, outside of the meetings of course?

Please note, that my questions and concerns do not even begin to address the concerns that other groups have as it relates to police and public safety. There are significant concerns held by people who are poor, LGBTQ+, survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, houseless folks, etc. who are not even close to being represented on the Commission that deserve to have a seat at the table. There are so

many people who do not feel safe around police and do not feel safe calling police, and they are the ones who need to be represented on the Commission if we are serious about the Commission's role as a bridge between the public and HPD.

I oppose Larry Ignas's nomination, and I am respectfully requesting that the Councilmembers oppose him as well.

Mahalo for your time,

Jessica Hernandez

Testimony
Attachment
Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 9:56 AM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Georgia Thompson-West
Phone 8087298884
Email georgia3@hawaii.edu
Meeting Date 06-02-2021
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Appointment of Larry Ignas
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Organization Organization
Justice for Lindani Myeni
Aloha,

My name is Georgia Thompson-West and I am submitting testimony to oppose the HPC Commissioner nominee, Larry Ignas. Honolulu needs a Commissioner who is free from conflicts of interest, who will increase transparent scrutiny of HPD, and who accepts that racial and ethnic disparities in policing is an issue of utmost importance to fulfill its mission to "enhance the public confidence, trust and support in the integrity, fairness, and respect of the police department."

Written Testimony

In upholding the purpose of HPC and holding HPD accountable to their mission to "serve with aloha", the following three characteristics are essential in the next Commissioner:

- Requires honesty, integrity, professionalism, accountability, and transparency from the Honolulu Police Department.
- Is representative of the communities directly impacted by the criminal legal system and/or has worked directly with people impacted by police and policing and,
- Acknowledges that there are racial and wealth disparities in our community that impact Honolulu policing, as peer-reviewed research and evidence has shown.

In his HPC application, Larry Ignas has provided no community activities to demonstrate any involvement in the community whatsoever. Further, his experience as listed in his application, shows he has worked exclusively in security and law enforcement. The HPC is tasked with HPD oversight, appointing and removing the Police Chief, and handling complaints from the public. Larry Ignas' lack of well-

rounded involvement with the Honolulu civilian community and exclusive security and law enforcement background is a conflict of interest to the mission of the Honolulu Police Commission.

According to a Civil Beat article by reporter Christina Jedra, Larry Ignas received a 28-day suspension for, what he described as, having "used poor judgement." Has Ignas' background been fully evaluated? Might there be other incidences of using "poor judgement"? Mayor Blangiardi believes that he can use brute force to rush this nomination through without scrutiny and is quoted as saying "Larry Ignas has a really great background," he said. "He spent 20 years with the East Chicago (Indiana) Police Department, has been living in Hawaii for over 25 years, (is a) highly regarded person in this community, and we'll see where that goes." Seeing how things go is not good enough for the public who are supposed to be served and protected by the police, not dominated and abused.

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/04/blangiardi-nominates-former-mainland-officer-to-honolulu-police-commission/>

Further questions for City Council to consider asking regarding Larry Ignas' background:

East Indiana Police Department, 1969-1989

- * Was he involved in any officer-involved shootings (either personally or as a witness).
- * Has he ever testified in a trial involving an officer-involved shooting or death.
- * While he was a police officer, was he investigated for complaints lodged by the public? If so, what was the outcome.
- * While he was a police officer was he ever disciplined or suspended. For what? There's a news clipping saying he was suspended for 28 days, which is highly unusual.
- * Does he think that there was systemic racism in the East Indiana Police Department while he was an officer?

Since 1970:

- * What experience has he had relating to vulnerable communities such as the unsheltered, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, victims of domestic violence, prisoners, the mentally ill? Is he a member of any organization committed to helping or understanding vulnerable communities? If so, which?
- * As a CEO of a large security company, an alarm company, and as a property manager, what relations has he had with HPD? Has he personally made any complaints or registered concerns about the conduct of any member of HPD?
- * Does he believe there's systemic racism in HPD?
- * Does he have any concerns about the lack of transparency at HPD? If so, what has he done to register those concerns?

I hope the City Council considers these factors as you move forward

with decisions regarding the next Commissioner and reject the nomination of Larry Ignas. Being a former police officer on the mainland decades ago does not automatically make him a good choice to provide HPD oversight and handle public complaints. Without a thorough review of his background, can the Council be sure there are not more incidents of misconduct that will be revealed in the future?

Please oppose Resolution 21-125: Nomination of Larry Ignas to the Honolulu Police Commission.

Sincerely,
Georgia Thompson-West

Testimony
Attachment
Accept Terms
and 1
Agreement

IP: 192.168.200.67

I have serious reservations and some important questions about Mayor Bangiardi's attempt to appoint Larry Ignis to the Police Commission.

We are at an unprecedented moment in the history of policing in the United States. Never has it been more important to have people of wisdom, broad vision and unimpeachable moral conduct on the Commission. This is an extremely important oversight body, responsible for ensuring public trust in policing by providing oversight, checking and sanctioning the police use of lethal force in maintaining the wellbeing of our Island community.

The national and our Islands are waking up to the long history of racism, exploitation, and persecution. We are also facing social and economic inequality. Half the population could not meet a \$400 emergency and where too many of our Island households are food insecure. The sort of people we need on the commission are those with the experience, the broad vision and wisdom to balance the forceful maintenance of social order and private property with fostering healthy communities where individuals can rise to their full potential.

The little we know of Mr Ignis is that he was a police officer for 20 years East Chicago Indiana with some questions about his judgement (28 days suspension for wrecking a squad car). He then ran security and alarm companies before becoming a property manager. In other words it seems his life's work has been disproportionately focused on one aspect of policing—protection of property. There is no evidence of post high school education, any experience in investigating complaints against the police, any concern with or knowledge of systemic racism in policing, militarization of police forces in the United States, excessive police use of force, lethal police shootings.

Has Mr Ignis ever been an advocate for the community at large? For marginalized groups? Does he have any knowledge of or experience with our vulnerable communities, the mentally ill, homeless, Pacific Islanders, victims of domestic violence. Has he ever filed a complaint against any police officer or police department?

Until we have satisfactory answers to these questions, Mr Ignis' nomination should not be considered.

Louis G. Herman (Professor of Political Science UH West Oahu)

808-255-5994

louisher@hawaii.edu

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 9:59 AM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Georgia Thompson-West
Phone 8087298884
Email georgia3@hawaii.edu
Meeting Date 06-02-2021
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item 21-125
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Organization Self

Aloha,

My name is Georgia Thompson-West and I am submitting testimony to oppose the HPC Commissioner nominee, Larry Ignas. Honolulu needs a Commissioner who is free from conflicts of interest, who will increase transparent scrutiny of HPD, and who accepts that racial and ethnic disparities in policing is an issue of utmost importance to fulfill its mission to "enhance the public confidence, trust and support in the integrity, fairness, and respect of the police department."

In upholding the purpose of HPC and holding HPD accountable to their mission to "serve with aloha", the following three characteristics are essential in the next Commissioner:

Written Testimony

- Requires honesty, integrity, professionalism, accountability, and transparency from the Honolulu Police Department.
- Is representative of the communities directly impacted by the criminal legal system and/or has worked directly with people impacted by police and policing and,
- Acknowledges that there are racial and wealth disparities in our community that impact Honolulu policing, as peer-reviewed research and evidence has shown.

In his HPC application, Larry Ignas has provided no community activities to demonstrate any involvement in the community whatsoever. Further, his experience as listed in his application, shows he has worked exclusively in security and law enforcement. The HPC is tasked with HPD oversight, appointing and removing the Police Chief, and handling complaints from the public. Larry Ignas' lack of well-

rounded involvement with the Honolulu civilian community and exclusive security and law enforcement background is a conflict of interest to the mission of the Honolulu Police Commission.

According to a Civil Beat article by reporter Christina Jedra, Larry Ignas received a 28-day suspension for, what he described as, having "used poor judgement." Has Ignas' background been fully evaluated? Might there be other incidences of using "poor judgement"? Mayor Blangiardi believes that he can use brute force to rush this nomination through without scrutiny and is quoted as saying "Larry Ignas has a really great background," he said. "He spent 20 years with the East Chicago (Indiana) Police Department, has been living in Hawaii for over 25 years, (is a) highly regarded person in this community, and we'll see where that goes." Seeing how things go is not good enough for the public who are supposed to be served and protected by the police, not dominated and abused.

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/04/blangiardi-nominates-former-mainland-officer-to-honolulu-police-commission/>

Further questions for City Council to consider asking regarding Larry Ignas' background:

East Indiana Police Department, 1969-1989

- * Was he involved in any officer-involved shootings (either personally or as a witness).
- * Has he ever testified in a trial involving an officer-involved shooting or death.
- * While he was a police officer, was he investigated for complaints lodged by the public? If so, what was the outcome.
- * While he was a police officer was he ever disciplined or suspended. For what? There's a news clipping saying he was suspended for 28 days, which is highly unusual.
- * Does he think that there was systemic racism in the East Indiana Police Department while he was an officer?

Since 1970:

- * What experience has he had relating to vulnerable communities such as the unsheltered, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, victims of domestic violence, prisoners, the mentally ill? Is he a member of any organization committed to helping or understanding vulnerable communities? If so, which?
- * As a CEO of a large security company, an alarm company, and as a property manager, what relations has he had with HPD? Has he personally made any complaints or registered concerns about the conduct of any member of HPD?
- * Does he believe there's systemic racism in HPD?
- * Does he have any concerns about the lack of transparency at HPD? If so, what has he done to register those concerns?

I hope the City Council considers these factors as you move forward

with decisions regarding the next Commissioner and reject the nomination of Larry Ignas. Being a former police officer on the mainland decades ago does not automatically make him a good choice to provide HPD oversight and handle public complaints. Without a thorough review of his background, can the Council be sure there are not more incidents of misconduct that will be revealed in the future?

Please oppose Resolution 21-125: Nomination of Larry Ignas to the Honolulu Police Commission.

Sincerely,
Georgia Thompson-West

Testimony
Attachment
Accept Terms
and 1
Agreement

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 12:28 PM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name	Patricia Mau-Shimizu
Phone	8085371868
Email	patms@hsba.org
Meeting Date	06-02-2021
Council/PH Committee	Council
Agenda Item	Resolution 21-125 Confirming the appointment of Larry Ignas to serve on the Police Commission of the City and County of Honolulu
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing Organization	Self
Written Testimony Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement	1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 6:50 PM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Jill Baptist
Phone 808-227-1940
Email ipobaptist@gmail.com
Meeting Date 06-02-2021
Council/PH Council
Committee
Agenda Item Resolution 21-125
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Aloha Councilmembers:

Written
Testimony

I support the appointment of Larry Ignas to serve on the Honolulu Police Commission. As the General Manager of Alakea Corporate Tower, Larry has made security a priority for the building, its tenants and visitors. He has trained his team to be vigilant and mindful of potential dangers surrounding the building. Larry understands the challenges to keep his tenants safe and his proactive instincts are attributable to his 20-year service with the Chicago police department.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my opinion and hope for a favorable decision to appoint Larry Ignas to the Honolulu Police Commission.

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 7:26 PM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Fabienne Melchior
Phone 3107177582
Email fcmelchior@gmail.com
Meeting Date 06-02-2021
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 21-125
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Self
Organization

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Kia'aina, and Councilmembers,

My name is Fabienne Melchior, and I am writing about the HPC Commissioner nominee, Larry Ignas. To fulfill the mission of HPC to "enhance the public confidence, trust and support in the integrity, fairness, and respect of the police department," a Commissioner must be free of conflicts of interest, committed to increasing transparent scrutiny of HPD, and accept HPD data showing that racial disparities in policing exist and thus an issue of utmost importance.

Written
Testimony

In his HPC application, Larry Ignas has provided no community activities to demonstrate any involvement in the community whatsoever. His experience, as listed in his application, shows he has worked exclusively in security and law enforcement. HPC is tasked with HPD oversight, appointing and removing the Police Chief, and handling complaints from the public.

Has Larry Ignas demonstrated experience in any of these areas? If not, what makes him qualified to uphold the purpose of HPC despite having no experience in any of these areas?

In addition, Ignas received a 28-day suspension for what he described as having "used poor judgment." Has Ignas' background been fully evaluated? Are there other incidences of using "poor judgment"?

In upholding the purpose of HPC and Honolulu's unique traits, the following three characteristics are essential in the next Commissioner:
* Requires accountability and transparency from the Honolulu Police

Department.

* Is representative of the communities directly impacted by the criminal legal system and/or has worked directly with people impacted by police and policing and,

* Acknowledges that racial and wealth disparities in our community impact Honolulu policing, as evidence has shown, especially lately, that we know of.

Additionally,

* Was he involved in any officer-involved shootings (either personally or as a witness).

* Has he ever testified in a trial involving an officer-involved shooting or death.

I hope you consider all these factors and make the obvious decision to reject the nomination of Larry Ignas. His very thin application shows that he is unqualified to fulfill objectively the function of Commissioner in the Honolulu Police Commission just based on the recommendation of one person, Mayor Rick Blangiardi.

Please oppose Resolution 21-125: Nomination of Larry Ignas to the Honolulu Police Commission.

Mahalo, for your consideration,

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 8:13 PM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Larry McElheny
Phone 808 237-9354
Email lkmcelheny@gmail.com
Meeting Date 06-02-2021
Council/PH Council
Committee
Agenda Item Resolution 21-125
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Self
Organization

Written Testimony Members of the Planning Commission should be as impartial and unbiased as possible. I don't believe that is the case in this instance.

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

MICHAEL J. GOLOJUCH, JR.

92-954 Makakilo Drive #71 ♦ Kapolei, HI 96707-1340

E-MAIL: mgolojuch@hotmail.com

June 1, 2021

City Council
City and County of Honolulu
530 S King St,
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Resolution 21-125 - appointment of Benjamin H. Ignas to serve on the Police Commission of the City and County of Honolulu

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Kia'āina and Council Members,

My name is Michael Golojuch, Jr. and I am 35+ year resident of Makakilo, a proud graduate of St. Louis High School, and longtime civil rights activist. I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity with the grave concerns I have regarding Mayor Rick Blangiardi's appointment of recently retired HPD Commander Benjamin H. Ignas to serve on the Police Commission of the City and County of Honolulu.

My grave concerns rise from the fact that Mr. Ignas has recently retired from the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and that Mr. Ignas's "common law wife", it should be noted that there are no laws in the state of Hawai'i for such a union though Hawai'i will recognize common law marriages originating and recognized in another state or country, is currently serving as a lieutenant on the Honolulu Police force. These two (2) factors alone should exclude Mr. Ignas, any retired police officer and/or a family member of a current HPD officer from serving on the Police Commission.

This is due to the fact that one of the important duties the Police Commission has pursuant to the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu under the Powers and Duty portion, Section 6-1606 (d):

Receive, consider and investigate charges brought by the public against the conduct of the department or any of its members and submit a written report of its findings to the chief of police. If the chief of police disagrees with the findings of the police commission, the chief shall submit the reason in writing to the police commission. _A (sic) summary of the charges filed and their disposition shall be included in the annual report of the commission.

Councilmembers, as you consider Mr. Ignas's appointment to the Police Commission and he proceeds through the confirmation process I hope that you will consider asking him these following questions in an open forum:

- How many family members either by blood, marriage and/or hānai are currently serving on the Honolulu Police force? (I hope this question becomes standard for any appointee to the Police Commission.)
- How many times, if any, has Mr. Ignas had complaints filed against him in the performance of his police duties? What type of complaints were filed and what was the outcome?

M. Golojuch, Jr. Testimony RE: Resolution 21-81 - appointment of Benjamin H. Ignas to serve on the Police Commission of the City and County of Honolulu

- How many times, if any, has Mr. Ignas's family members (no names requested) had complaints filed against them in the performance of their police duties? What type of complaints were filed and what was the outcome, if known?
- How many close friends does Mr. Ignas have that are currently serving as a member of Honolulu's police force?
- Given there are no requirements in the City Charter will Mr. Ignas recuse himself if any complaints are filed against his family members, and/or close friends? Why or why not?
- What is Mr. Ignas's thoughts on the "blue wall of silence"? What did he do when he was an officer to breakdown that wall?
- If Mr. Ignas is confirmed how will he work to remove the public's perception of his bias given his background?
- What kind of reforms does Mr. Ignas believe that the Honolulu Police Department needs to help address justice system reform?
- If confirmed what does Mr. Ignas believe his role will be to address the erosion of trust the public has after the Kealoha conspiracy and abuse of power?
- What does Mr. Ignas believe that the Honolulu Police Department should be doing to build bridges and trust between communities that are over represented in Hawaii's prison system?
- Besides the investigations function what does Mr. Ignas think is the next important function of the Police Commission?
- If confirmed how will Mr. Ignas make himself available to the general public that may have concerns about the Police Commission, outside of the meetings of course?

While I am the one submitting these questions, I want you to know that these are the questions that my friends and acquaintances have brought up ever since Mr. Ignas's appointment was announced. I say this to let you know that I am not the only person that is looking for answers to these questions.

Should you or any member of your staff have questions or concerns regarding this testimony please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

In Solidarity,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.



STANFORD CARR DEVELOPMENT, LLC

* June 2, 2021

Mayor Rick Blangiardi, City and County of Honolulu
Councilmember Heidi Tsuneyoshi, Chair Public Safety
Councilmember Augie Tulba, Co-Chair Public Safety
Members of the Council for the City and County of Honolulu

RESOLUTION 21-125: Confirming the appointment of Larry Ignas to serve on the Police Commission of the City and County of Honolulu:

I would like to submit my letter of SUPPORT in the appointment Larry Ignas who I have known for eight (8) years as the General Manager of our building.

Our building is well-maintained by his staff and the occupants and guests feel safe throughout our building and surrounding areas.

As a retired police officer, I believe Mr. Ignas brings with him the knowledge and firsthand experience to support the Police Commission in ensuring the duties and responsibilities of the administration for Honolulu Police Department are being met with integrity and professionalism.

I agree with the Mayor's recommendation of Mr. Ignas to serve on the Police Commission for the City and County of Honolulu.

I highly give my support in the confirmation of Larry Ignas to the Honolulu Police Commission.

Thank you.

Stanford S. Carr
President

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 9:38 AM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Calvin Foo Pham
Phone 8172391940
Email cfpham@yahoo.com
Meeting Date 06-02-2021
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 21-125
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Organization Self

Written Testimony

I want a police commissioner who isn't a former police officer. It is important to me that police oversight have a broader perspective, and I believe a different nominee should be put forward. A nominee with a fresh perspective in community issues that is still competent and reasonable in saying that the way the police operates can be re-imagined is what our community needs. For example, we need fresh perspectives in the police relationship with our homeless population. Let's get a nominee who has some fresh ideas on this very important issue.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

Written Testimony

Name Nikos Leverenz
 Phone 9167529844
 Email naleverenz@gmail.com
 Meeting Date 06-02-1974
 Council/PH Council
 Committee
 Agenda Item 21-125
 Your position on the matter Oppose
 Representing Self
 Organization

I am writing in opposition to the nomination of Larry Ignas.

Written
Testimony

At this time Honolulu's police commission needs a member who will prioritize the needs of the community. Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, including COFA migrants, are subject to disproportionate rates of arrest and incarceration.

Honolulu's next police commissioner should prioritize transparency and accountability. Placing a retired law enforcement officer who served on the continent is not a good fit for the current needs of the commission or our city.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony
 Attachment
 Accept Terms
 and Agreement

1

IP: 192.168.200.67